

## Message Text

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51

ACTION AGR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

CIEP-02 SAJ-01 NIC-01 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4446

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS VIENNA 10591

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, CZ, AU

SUBJECT: HARVEST SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKI DECEMBER 1974

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE

REF: PRAGUE 2718

1. HARVESTING CZECHOSLOVAK 1974 CROP TERMINATED UNDER ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS AND WITH CONSIDERABLE DELAY. BECAUSE OF THE EXCEPTIONALLY WET SOIL DURING OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER HARVESTING MACHINES IN MANY AREAS COULD NOT ENTER FIELDS AND CROPS SUCH AS SUGARBEET, CORN AND POTATOES HAD TO BE HAND PICKED. AS RESULT CERTAIN CROPS SUFFERED DAMAGE.

2. DESPITE ADVSERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING HARVEST HOWEVER PRODUCTION OF FIELD CROPS, CEREALS, SUGARBEET, POTATOES AND OILSEEDS INCREASED 11 PERCENT OVER 1973 THANKS LARGELY TO GOOD GRAINS AND HIGH YIELDS SUGARBEET CROPS. ALTHOUGH FINAL FIGURES FOR SEVERAL INDIVIDUAL CROPS HAVE NOT YET BEEN RELEASED FOLLOWING UNCLASSIFIED

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ARE TENTATIVE ESTIMATES PRODUCTION MAJOR FIELD CROPS OBTAINED

FROM VARIOUS PRESS REPORTS AND FROM STATEMENTS FROM  
CZECHOSLOVAKIAN OFFICIALS.

3. ALTHOUGH HECTARS PLANTED TO GRAIN IN 1974 WAS 26,000 LESS  
THAN IN 1973, THE 2,756,000 HECTARS IN 1974 BROUGHT A RECORD  
10.5 MIL TONS CROP, DESPITE ADVERSE WEATHER DURING THE SEASON.  
THE RAINS PARTICULARLY AT HARVEST TIME TENDED TO AFFECT ADVERSELY  
THE QUALITY OF SEVERAL CROPS.

(A) WHEAT PRODUCTION IN 1974 IS TENTATIVELY PLACED AT OVER  
5.0 MIL MT FROM 1,240,000 HECTARS HARVESTED, BARLEY AT 3.3 MIL  
MT AND CORN AT 700,000 MT. THE INCREASED GRAIN PRODUCTION IS A  
WELCOME DEVELOPMENT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIAN AGRICULTURE BECAUSE IT  
WILL CONTRIBUTE TO REDUCED RELIANCE ON PROTEIN NEEDS FROM OTHER  
COUNTRIES INCLUDING FROM WEST. CORN STILL WILL BE IMPORTED IN  
PART BECAUSE OF LOW QUALITY CROP RESULTING FROM EXCESSIVE RAINS  
DURING HARVEST.

(B) ABOUT 9,000 MORE HECTARS WERE PLANTED TO SUGARBEETS IN 1974.  
THE 206,000 HECTARS BROUGHT A RECORD OF 7.7 MIL TONS OF BEETS  
DESPITE HEAVY RAINS DURING HARVEST REQUIRING HAND PICKUP OF  
CROP IN MANY AREAS. ALTHOUGH RECORD HARVEST TO BEET CROP IN  
1974 CONTAINS ABOUT 10 PERCENT LESS SUGAR THAN THE 16 PERCENT  
IN 1973, THIS YEAR'S PRODUCTION OF BEETS WILL STILL PERMIT  
SUBSTANTIAL EXPORTS OF SUGAR WHICH IN 1973 AMOUNTED TO  
207,000 MT.

(C) OILSEEDS. RAPESEED IS THE MAIN OILSEED GROWN IN CZECHO-  
SLOVAKIA. FLAX AND SUNFLOWER SEEDS ARE GROWN ONLY ON SMALL  
SCALE WHILE SOYBEANS ONLY AS AN EXPERIMENTAL CROP IN LIMITED  
AMOUNTS. RAPESEED PRODUCTION HAS BEEN VERY POOR THIS YEAR  
BECAUSE OF DRY WEATHER AND FROST AT PLANTING TIME IN 1973.  
AS A RESULT ONE-THIRD OF THE 60,000 HECTARS PLANTED HAD TO BE  
PLOWED UP IN SPRING 1974. THE LOSS IS ESTIMATED AROUND  
30,000 MT.

4. IN ADDITION TO DAMAGE SUFFERED BY CERTAIN CROPS DUE TO WEATHER,  
THE USUAL FALL WORK IN THE FIELD ALSO HAS BEEN DELAYED.  
DEEP PLOWING AND SOWING OF WINTER WHEAT ON SOME 1,230 ACRES  
HAS BEEN DELAYED AND SOME LAND WILL REMAIN IDLE TILL NEXT  
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SPRING.HUMES

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## Message Attributes

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